



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

STATEMENT

BY

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**AT THE 94TH SESSION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION
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Check against Delivery

**Mr. Chairman,
Honourable Ministers
The Director General,
Deputy Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is an honour and indeed a privilege for me to attend and address this session. First and foremost, I wish, on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf to congratulate you on your deserved election to chair this Council. It is our hope that during your tenure this organization will reach greater heights. I wish to assure and your bureau Tanzania's full support towards realization of our global migration management goals.

Let me also pay tribute to the outgoing Chairperson for a job well done. We wish to align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Morocco on behalf of the African Group. Allow me also to congratulate the organization's new members and observers while extending to them a warm welcome. We wish them a very warm welcome. In the same vein, we wish to express our sincere appreciation to

the IOM staff for their excellent work during the past one year. For, since the last session a lot has been done in fostering mutual cooperation in handling migration challenges around the globe. Tanzania like many others present here continues to benefit from the good work of IOM.

Mr. Chairman,

The past one year has greatly tested the veracity of humanitarian agencies like IOM by way of living up to challenges like natural disasters, wars and economic hardships all of which bear a lot to irregular migration. IOM is one organization that has done a commendable job in the wake of these formidable challenges.

TANZANIA AND THE IOM

Mr. Chairman,

Tanzania enjoys excellent working relations with the IOM. The Tele-conference on “Tanzanians in the Diaspora”, which was held in Dar es Salaam and Washington, D.C. on 20 March 2007 under the facilitation of the IOM, among many other initiatives, attests to this fact. It is our hope that the momentum gained will be sustained.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2008 Migration Report acknowledges the fact that Tanzania is a host to the largest contingent migrants in the whole of East and Central Africa. As one of the durable solutions, resettlement of refugees from camps and settlements in Western Tanzania to the United States, Canada and Australia has progressed very well over the past year thanks to the smooth operations by the IOM, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies supported by development partners.

Similarly voluntary return of refugees from neighboring countries of Burundi and DRC is also recording encouraging trend. Tanzania would like to have all refugees go back as soon as the situation allows. Yet we reiterate our pledge to honour our International Commitments by welcoming and hosting all genuine asylum seekers.

THE MOSHI IMMIGRATION ACADEMY

Mr. Chairman,

We are yet to open the Tanzania Immigration Academy at Moshi intended to be a Regional Migration Management Training Center for Eastern Africa. The earlier plan to inaugurate the Academy in September 2007 unfortunately could not materialize due to inadequate logistical arrangements both internal and external.

With the good collaboration from the IOM office in Dar es Salaam we hope to have the Academy operational early next year. This matter will be deliberated extensively during the forth coming East African Community Chiefs of Immigration Meeting to be held in Zanzibar from December 6 – 7, 2007.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate our request to IOM and other partners who have shown interest in the establishment of the Academy to demonstrate their good intention in this endeavour.

In this regard, I wish to earnestly request IOM to honour its promise to posting a Training Specialist to assist the Academy

with curriculum development and other necessary logistics. Intended to offer advanced courses to our Immigration Personnel, the Academy will lead to qualitative change in our capacity to manage entry ports, district and regional/provincial offices as well as departmental sections and units.

THE MOSHI ACADEMY IN THE CONTEXT OF EAC COMMON MARKET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Chairman,

The inauguration of the Moshi Immigration Academy will greatly add impetus to the quest for further deepening regional integration by the East Africa Community Partner States, in essence, by moving from the Customs Union to the Common Market in the shortest period possible. According to the Integration timetable, beginning January 2008, Common Market negotiations will commence.

Since free movement of persons, labour, goods, services and capital is central to a Common Market, a well trained and adequately equipped Migration Management Staff is essential

to effectively manage the anticipated volumes of movements within and across our regional block frontiers.

THE GLOBAL FORUM ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Chairman,

The Brussels` Global Forum on Migration and Development in July 2007 opened a new horizon on the inseparable linkage between Migration and Development. The forum which is the result of the UN High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development held in New York in September 2006 has helped in putting on the world map the question of labour migration. This is true because most of the migrants are working people. They contribute to economic advancement in the countries of origin and destination. Indeed labour migration is the hallmark of the globalization phenomenon. Yet migrants face a myriad hurdles in terms of stringent entry and work conditions, transnational criminal syndicates like human traffickers and smugglers, exploitation and harassment to mention but a few.

Individual countries may not have the adequate logistical resources to curb such vices. In poor developing countries trafficking in persons has spillover effects in the form of increased crime rates, insecurity and instability and diverting

meagre resources intended for essential services to the public. The Global Forum in Brussels offered all of us a proper platform on which we can collectively address these issues. As we prepare for the second forum in Manila next year it is imperative to look critically into how we can best mitigate the negative causes for migration while at the same time create incentives that will encourage orderly, decent and development promoting movements of persons in our global village.

CONCLUSION

In closing, once again this past one year has been full of development that testifies to the functional usefulness of this organization. It is increasingly becoming vivid to everyone now that we cannot halt or restrict migration flows.

We can only enhance our capacity to facilitate and manage it to the advantage of all countries and peoples of this World. IOM is still a useful vehicle through which we can spread the message of creating, developing and harmonizing effective and efficient migration management tools and thereby answer to the needs of the countries of origin, transit and destination and indeed to those of the migrating populations themselves.

I thank you.

